

LECTURE
ON
The Medical History

OF THE

Philadelphia Alms House.

Delivered at the Opening of the Clinical Lectures,

OCTOBER 15TH, 1862,

BY

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PUBLISHED BY REQUEST OF THE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

PHILADELPHIA:
HOLLAND & EDGAR, PRINTERS,
54 NORTH EIGHTH STREET,
1862.

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I am indebted to the Board of Guardians for free access to the records of the House; to Doctors Girvin and Benton, Resident Physicians of the Philadelphia Hospital, for valuable assistance in searching these records; to Mr. Samuel Hazzard, Secretary of the Philadelphia Historical Society, for information which the works of that library supplied; to Mr. Mickley, whose rare collection of old works is unsurpassed; to Professors Jackson and Hodge, and Doctors Gerrhard and Stille, whose acquaintance with matters pertaining to the subjects treated on, proved of much consequence in enabling me to ascertain facts connected with subjects on which written documents were silent, and to Mr. Cavender, whose industry in arranging the records is most praiseworthy.

LECTURE.

GENTLEMEN :

I am before you to-day by appointment of the medical board, to discharge a service preliminary to the opening of the annual Course of Clinical Lectures in this hospital. For some time I have been engaged in gathering material from a great variety of sources, written and unwritten, to secure the history of the Philadelphia Alm House from oblivion, if not utter loss. The field is extensive and interesting, though its paths have been much obscured by the decay of time. So interwoven is it with the secularities of Philadelphia, that no history of this city, Civil, Political, or Professional, would be complete without it.

The Medical history of the Philadelphia Alms House covers a period of one hundred and twenty years, during which time it has been located in three different positions. First, on the square between Spruce and Pine, and Third and Fourth streets,—at that time called the Green Meadows; next on the square between Spruce and Pine, and Eleventh and Twelfth streets, long known as the Society Grounds; and last on the west side of the Schuylkill river, where we are assembled to day.

This, gentlemen, is the oldest hospital on this continent. Proud in his history of Pennsylvania, a work justly esteemed for its research, says the Philadelphia Alms House was of a later date than the Pennsylvania Hospital, the origin of which, was in 1853. This is a mistake. In 1742 it was fulfilling a varied routine of beneficent functions in affording shelter, support and employment for the poor and indigent, a hospital for the sick, and an asylum for the idiotic, the insane, and the orphan. It was thus dispensing its acts of mercy and blessing, when Pennsylvania was yet a province, and her inhabitants the loyal subjects of Great Britain, more than twenty years before a school of medicine was founded in this city, and indeed before most of the great events which have given the American people a historical importance among the nations of the earth.

Who were the first physicians appointed to attend the Philadelphia Alms House, and at what period were they assigned to this duty? These are questions, so far as I know, which cannot be ascertained either from record or tradition. In 1768, and probably much earlier, Doctor Cadwallader Evans, and Doctor Thomas Bond, were the medical appointees; and on the 18th of May, 1769, we have a formal announcement of their re-election. The institution at this early period contained two hundred and forty six inmates, and each of the medical attendants received fifty pounds per annum, and were required to supply such medicines as were needed by the sick. Dr. Bond studied his profession at home and abroad; was the first surgeon and physician to the Pennsylvania Hospital, in which institution, as early as 1769 he delivered lectures on clinical medicine and surgery. Doctor Cadwallader Evans was one of the first pupils of Doctor Bond. In order to finish his education he sailed for Edinburgh, but the vessel while on the voyage was taken by a Spanish privateer, and carried to Hayti, where he remained between two and three years before being able to renew the voyage for the Scotch metropolis, then the great centre of medical instruction. It was after his return from Scotland he became officially connected with the Alms House. That the medical police of the House was not of the strictest character, may be inferred from the fact that a number of persons were in the habit of visiting the institution, assuming to be Doctors, and volunteering their services to the unfortunate sick. This irregularity continued unquestioned for some time, until many of the patients had suffered very great injury, and no small amount of discredit brought upon the management of the House. A resolution was at length introduced and passed by the board of managers, permitting no one to prescribe except the regular appointees, and requiring them to visit the hospital oftener and with more regularity. At this period the invaluable discovery of Jenner was unknown to the medical world, and the only method capable of diminishing the horrors of small pox was the induction of the disease by inoculation, after a careful previous preparation of the system for its reception. Singular as it may appear, there were many who regarded the practice not only improper, but positively sinful. I remember a few years ago, whilst sitting in one of our city churches, taking up a bible which bore on the fly leaf the inscription, over the signature of the owner, "opposed to corporation and inoculation." In 1771 the institution contained a number of destitute children who had never had an attack of variola. For their own, as well as the safety of

the other inmates, Doctor Evans called the attention of the managers to this fact, and proposed they should be protected by inoculation. The board acquiesced in the suggestion, provided the house should be subjected to no expense, other than the medicine required for their subsequent treatment. Twenty-one of these children were separated from the general mass for this purpose, all of whom perfectly recovered. In the month of February 1778, there were forty others subjected to a similar course with a like result.

In 1772 a proposition was made to the managers to extend the usefulness of the House by the admission of students, and an increase in the number of medical attendants. This proposition included an offer of gratuitous service, the institution being only at the expense of purchasing the medicines required for the sick. On the 25th of March 1774, the desired addition to the Medical corps was effected by the election of Doctor Adam Kuhn, Professor of Materia Medica and Botany, in the Medical College; Doctor Benjamin Rush, who held the chair of Chemistry in the same institution; Doctor Samuel Duffield, one of the ten Alumni who received the first Medical Degrees conferred in this country, (21st. June, 1768,) and Doctor Girardus Clarkson. An additional physician, Doctor Thomas Parke, was added to the number, March 25th, 1774. This probably is the origin, in this country, of gratuitous professional service to public institutions, which has become so general at the present day, and which I conceive operates disadvantageously to both he who dispenses, and he who receives. To advocate such a sentiment brings no odium on the profession. It requires no argument from me to vindicate our calling from the charge of selfishness. It is not saying too much when we venture the assertion, that among the professions there are none which contribute so largely their free will offerings for the relief of human suffering, or which furnish so many examples of disinterested and unselfish benevolence as our own.

I cannot refrain here from relating an anecdote somewhat *appropos* to this subject. The late professor Chapman, while discharging the clinical duties of his chair in the University of Pennsylvania, had brought before him a poor Irish woman who had applied for advice. The Doctor made a careful examination of her case, ordered a prescription to be made out, and bade her in a kindly tone to retire. With great simplicity of manner she tendered a compensation, which on being declined, in an air of mingled surprise and doubt, she exclaimed: "Take the trifle, my jewel, for its yourself must be after living!" "Ah! my good woman," said the Doctor, in his own inimi-

itable way, "We Doctors are a very peculiar people, we look for our reward hereafter."

To every American the year 1776 is full of historic importance. A period when our revolutionary sires, men of large hearts, broad minds, and self-sacrificing spirits, were freely spending their blood, treasure, and wisdom, to establish a national independence and government, which their children are to day in a spirit of unparalleled venture, rending to pieces.

On the 5th of September, 1776, the *Council of Safety*, through its President, Thomas Wharton, Jun., addressed a note to the managers of the Bettering House, as it was often styled, asking permission for the Quarter Master, (Deputy) General, to quarter in the institution a number of the Continental militia, who were very sick with dysentery. This was strenuously opposed both by the managers and the medical attendants, as calculated to endanger the health of the house. They had, on former occasions suffered greatly from the prevalence of putrid sore throat and small pox; and had been compelled to move many of these cases to private lodgings in order to stay their fatal progress; and in justice to the helpless and infirm inmates—most of whom possessed little ability to withstand disease, they naturally objected to the introduction of an element of danger, such as malignant dysentery, the scourge of camps would constitute. As all military government tends to despotism, the application was merely to maintain a semblance to the legitimate forms of propriety. This is quite natural and proper, when public necessity becomes paramount to personal considerations; and accordingly the council ordered Col. Francis Guerney, on the 23d of October, to take military possession of the Alms House, for the sick soldiers. No alternative was left but to make the best of the unpleasant position forced upon them. The poor were transferred to the west building, and these soldiers were placed in the south east wing of the House of Employment, arresting entirely the industrial operations of the establishment. They retained possession of this apartment until the British took possession of the city in 1777, when they were removed. This removal, however, in no way relieved the managers from embarrassment, as shortly after, in the month of October, the entire east wing was appropriated for the sick belonging to the Kings' troops under General Howe. For fear they might in like manner appropriate the west wing also, the managers waited on Joseph Galloway, to secure his influence with the General, to prevent an occurrence which must entail so great

distress on the poor—its inmates at this time being of the most helpless description. Joseph Galloway, was a lawyer of distinction and wealth, Speaker of the Provincial Assembly. In our struggle, he took the royal side of the question, and became, under the sanction of the British Commander, the General Superintendent of the city. When, however, the cause of the Colonies brightened, and Howe was obliged to evacuate Philadelphia, he was compelled to follow his master, his estates were confiscated, his fortune melted away, and he was obliged to accept a Secretaryship to the Commander-in-Chief. It was therefore in consequence of his royal proclivities, the managers sought his aid. They were referred by him to Doctor Stuart, Surgeon General of the British Military Hospital, who promised unless an emergency should arise, to accede to their request. It was but a short time after this, in November, at 9 o'clock at night, when the poor were almost destitute of food, the barrack master called on two of the managers, ordering them to clear the house for the reception of the King's troops. The Board met the next morning, and after a short deliberation, refused to comply with the unreasonable and cruel demand. On hearing their decision, the British official proceeded at once to remove the inmates—about two hundred in number, of miserable, decrepid, half starved creatures. As they would soon have perished, exposed to the rigors of a November air, the managers succeeded in securing quarters for them, some in the Free Masons old Lodge—still standing in Filbert, above Eighth street; some in the Friends' Meeting House; and others in Carpenter's Hall, off Chesnut, above Third street; where they were maintained until the last days of June 1778, when the invaders having left the city, they were removed back to their old home. The exposure and deprivation attending their ejection, was followed by a heavy mortality, as only eighty-two of the original two hundred survived, to re-enter their former quarters.

In 1777 Doctors Benjamin Rush and Clarkson, resigned their posts, and the three remaining members were requested by the Board of managers, either to occupy their terms of service, or to choose substitutes; the former of which they concluded to do. No alteration in this arrangement was made until the 29th of April, 1779, when a proposition was made by Doctors Glentworth, Jackson, and Duffield, to attend the sick of the institution, charging only for the medicines used in their treatment. From the 25th of March 1780, we may date the origin of the system of *Out Door* medical relief as a part of the benevolent operations of the managers of the poor.

In order that such aid might be furnished, Doctors Hutchison and Wilson, were requested to attend and prescribe for those, who, although not inmates of the institution, were yet dependent on its resources for professional aid. From this small beginning, in which two gentlemen were able to meet all the demands of the city, have arisen eleven districts, requiring twenty-four physicians, who, for a very small compensation, dispense an amount of professional relief truly wonderful. In passing over the records of this department it is pleasant to find, that at one time or another, almost every name of note in the ranks of our profession, is found among those who have labored in this sphere of humble usefulness, and no doubt, not a few of them, laid the foundation of their future reputation, while thus engaged in visiting the sick poor in the secluded lanes, and alleys of this metropolis. No man can long labor in such a field, in daily contact with a class, whose sufferings are greatly increased by the absence of so much which serves in the more fortunate to alleviate the pressure of disease, without feeling all the sympathies of his heart unlocked, and becoming a wiser and better man.

On the 7th of February 1781, Dr. Bond, who it seems had no connexion with the house after the year 1779, being at this time Medical Purveyor of the United States Army, applied to the managers for the east wing of the building, which had shortly before been occupied by the Board of War, to accommodate a number of British prisoners who were very ill at that time in the jail. This request was granted, by his agreeing in behalf of the government, to pay a monthly rent of one hundred dollars, hard money. For some time after 1781, Doctor Samuel Duffield seems to have been the only physician attached to the institution, giving his attention, under a contract based on his own proposition, to attend all the inmates, and find the necessary medicines, for the sum of two hundred pounds per annum. One of two things is evident; either the Doctor was fond of money, or fond of work.

At this time it was the custom to have the venereal cases, and the violent insane, treated at the Pennsylvania Hospital. In regard to the first, it was deemed necessary in accordance with the current medical notions on the subject, to subject every case to a mercurial course, carried to the extent of salivation. In the Pennsylvania Hospital, the accommodations for this, were greater, and more complete than those of the Alms House. In addition to the ordinary expenses of board and nursing, a fee was always charged against the Alms House

by the Physician under whose care the case had been treated. There is a record of two guineas for this object being paid to Dr. John Morgan, one of the two gentlemen who first established a medical school in America. In 1782, the General Assembly passed an act authorising the managers to bind out all persons treated for venereal disease, until the expenses were liquidated from the proceeds of their labor. These expenses, it is presumed, averaged about twenty four pounds, from that amount having been specified on the record, as the sum for which one binding had been made. Between the mortifying annoyance of the disease, the salivation of the doctors, and the limited apprenticeship; the worshipper at the shrine of Venus, paid pretty dearly for his whistle. In 1788 a new organization of the medical department was made, by the election of Doctor Samuel Duffield, Samuel P. Griffiths—who subsequently became professor of *Materia Medica* and Pharmacy, in the Medical College of Philadelphia; Caspar Wistar—afterwards professor of Chemistry and the Institutes of Medicine, and still later of Anatomy; — Rodgers, Girardus Clarkson, Michael Leib, and John Morris. In less than a year (in April 1789) Drs. Morris and Griffiths, in consequence of their private business, tendered their resignations. Both of these gentlemen were popular, and although their official connexion with the house had been short, the managers, in accepting their resignations, acknowledged in a very handsome and complimentary manner, the value of their professional services to the House. The same month in which Doctors Griffiths and Morris withdrew, the medical organization was reduced to six members, by dropping Dr. Rodgers, and electing Doctor N. Waters, and Doctor William Shippen, the latter, the founder of medical teaching in this country. On the 29th of March, 1790, the managers addressed a communication to these physicians, acknowledging the value of their services to the poor, and begging they would continue their several offices the coming year. This letter no doubt was designed to be antidotal; for only a short time before they had refused a very reasonable request of the medical attendants, which will receive its proper explanation when the Clinical history of our subject is reached. One month after, the whole body of physicians resigned, the institute losing the best medical talent in the city.

Shortly after this event, Doctors Duffield and Leib solicited an appointment to the House, who, after their election, were required to become the purchasers of all drugs consumed by the sick. The increase in the population of the Alms House, together with the

private engagements of these gentlemen, rendered it necessary for them to ask some assistance, for which object Doctor Cumming, August the 10th, 1795, was appointed Assistant Visiting Physician, without salary.

Whatever may be thought of the credulity of the present generation, it is no less clear the people of 1796 were not proof against charlatan imposition. Every age has had some crotchet on which to betray mental imbecility. The whale must have a tub with which to amuse itself. At the period above named, it was Perkinism, or the cure of disease by metallic tractors. The most extravagant reports of extraordinary cures effected by this manipulation had been bruited abroad in advance of the Doctor's arrival in Philadelphia. The eyes of the blind had been opened; the ears of the deaf unstopped; the lame man made to leap as a hart; and in fine, a universal catholicon for human disease and infirmity had at length been discovered. On the 27th of February, the Visiting Committee of the house reported having witnessed several successful operations by Doctor Perkins, with his metallic points, and had seen the grateful acknowledgments of many others who had been subjects of his new method; that the hospital contained numerous cases which might be benefited by his skill, and proposed that George Davis, one of the members of the Board, be authorized to invite Dr. Perkins to attend the institution on the following Wednesday, at 10 o'clock, thus giving the other members an opportunity of being present during his visit. The Doctor made his appearance on the appointed day, and managed so successfully to close the eyes of the sage managers, as to secure from them the purchase of his patent for the benefit of the hospital; and this house to-day owns the exclusive right to practice in Philadelphia the cure of disease by metallic points.

Where is Perkinism to-day? that gigantic humbug, which over-run with unparalleled rapidity, towns, cities, villages, and rural districts, at home and abroad, and was endorsed by three American universities. Gone to the tomb of the Capulets, where every other ism, system, and device of man, not resting on a substratum of truth, must sooner or later sink, never to be unburied unless by the pick of some future Fossilist, delving among the *caput mortuums* of exploded systems, for specimens of human folly, either to adorn a cabinet, or point the shaft of ridicule. That Perkinism could not have proved very efficient in the Philadelphia Alms House, may be inferred from the fact that on the 20th of March, the sick had be-

come so numerous, as to require an additional number of physicians, to aid Doctor Duffield and his assistant in their labors. The gentlemen selected by the Board, were Doctors Samuel Clements, Jr., Wm. Boyce, and Samuel Cooper, at a salary, each, of One Hundred Dollars annually. It would appear Doctor Cooper declined the appointment, and the corps remained without any substitute being elected. They were required to visit the Hospital three times a week ordinarily, and oftener if the state of the sick demanded it; two were to attend together, and in case an operation was required, the operator was to be selected by a majority vote.

In the fall of 1797, Doctor Pleasants died, and on the 23d of December, the same year, Doctors John Church and Thomas C. James, the latter subsequently Professor of Obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania, were elected, the former to supply the vacancy occasioned by death, and the other in the place unoccupied by Doctor Cooper.

Until 1801, there were no changes to notice, when, on the 6th of April of this year, Doctor Boyce tendered his resignation; shortly after which, Doctor Elijah Griffith was elected his successor. In August, Doctor Duffield, who seemed to be a necessary appurtenance of the house, having been connected with it for twenty-nine years, was dismissed in consequence of having furnished a certificate admitting a patient with typhus fever into the institution. At this time there seems to have been a very close police exercised by the managers over admissions, in consequence, no doubt, of the recent epidemic of yellow fever which had desolated so many homes, and produced such wide spread distress, and consternation in the community. After the removal of Doctor Duffield, the number of medical attendants was increased, by the election on Sept. 7th, 1801, of Doctors John Proudfit, Philip Syng Physick—the father of American Surgery, and Charles Caldwell, familiar to the present generation of medical men as the author of his own biography; a man unquestionably of remarkable intellectual force, combined, however, with such incongruous elements of character, as were calculated to defeat the best appointed plans of ambition. These gentlemen were to receive a salary of twenty-five pounds per annum.

In 1804 a very extraordinary event occurred in view of the very amiable nature of doctors in general. This was a quarrel among the physicians, originating mainly in a private difficulty between Doctors Caldwell and James. The dispute grew to such magnitude, that the managers, as the shortest way to establish the peace of the insti-

tution, on the 9th of January, proceeded to the election of a new board, consisting of Doctors Philip Syng Physick, John Church, Elijah Griffiths, John Rush, Thomas C. James, Benjamin Smith Barton and Samuel Stewart; each of whom was to receive the old salary of £25, subject to all reasonable out-door calls. Doctor Rush declined the appointment, and on the 19th of the same month, Doctor James Reynolds was elected to take his place.

On the 17th of January, 1805, the same year in which he was elected to the Chair of Surgery in the University, Doctor Physick offered his resignation. Very soon after its acceptance, Doctor James Hutchison was appointed his successor. The latter gentlemen's name is associated with a modification of the Desault splint for fractures of the thigh. His service was of short duration, his resignation being recorded three months after the announcement of his election. During this year a difficulty occurred between the managers and Doctor Barton, in consequence of the latter declining to attend out-door patients. Their views being irreconcilable, the Doctor was dismissed, and to supply the two vacancies now existing, Doctors J. Cathrall, and Peter Miller were selected by the Board.

It was also during this year Doctor Church died. His place was occupied by the brilliant, but short-lived John Syng Dorsey, who, in his brief career of professional life, occupied no less than three prominent positions in the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania—first as an adjunct to Physick; then as successor to Chapman on materia medica, and last as successor to Wistar on anatomy. The next change was produced by the death of Doctor Reynolds in 1807. After this event an additional physician was added to the corps by the election of Dr. Nathaniel Chapman to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Doctor Reynolds, and Doctor Joseph Parrish to make up the compliment of the staff.

On the 17th of November 1809, a resolution was introduced and adopted by the managers, constituting the medical officers of the Alms House, a Medical Board. They were to meet the first Monday of every month, at 4 o'clock, P. M., and report rules for the government of the Hospital department.

The following year, 1810, furnishes us with the first instance, so far as I know, of a hospital in this country receiving a female resident physician. On the 1st of July, a Mrs. Lavender made application to be admitted into the institution, as an Assistant Midwife, in order the better to perfect her education. Such a charming name, "*Lavender*," so overcome the physical senses of the members of the

board, that they lost their intellectual sense and granted her petition. During my term of service in the winter of 1856, several women from the Female Medical College of this city, were furnished with tickets to the clinical lectures, without my knowledge. You may imagine my astonishment, when entering the lecture room to discharge the duties of the hour, I saw seated on one side of the amphitheatre, a number of these misguided creatures. I had selected for the instruction of the class on that morning, a series of cases all illustrating some disease of the genital organs; and as it was now too late to recede, I proceeded to operate for phymosis, and to exhibit and treat some blooming specimens of chancre. Notwithstanding there were a large number of male students present, and the personal exposure necessary for the conduct of the Clinic, they never betrayed the slightest evidence of shame, but sat with the imperturbable indifference of primeval innocence. This, I suppose, some would consider praiseworthy and philosophical, but which I confess exhibited to me a perversion of character, utterly below any preconceived views ever entertained of strong-minded women. The occurrence was never repeated, as I at once addressed a letter to the board, when their money was returned, and admittance refused.

Two vacancies occurred in 1810, one by the withdrawal of Doctor Griffiths, and the other by the death of Doctor Stewart. To supply these, Doctors Stewart and Joseph Klapp were elected. On the 2nd of September, 1811, Doctor Dorsey tendered his resignation, and on the 9th of the same month, was succeeded by Doctor Thomas Hewson.

The service of the various gentlemen now connected with the house, was so arranged, that one portion were to attend to surgical, and the other medical and obstetrical cases. The surgical staff consisted of Doctors Cathrall, Miller and Parish; the medical, of Doctors Chapman, Stewart and Hewson. Between the Managers of the Philadelphia Alms House and Pennsylvania Hospital, there existed at this period, much unamicable temper, as well as jealousy. Both were anxious to secure the patronage of medical students, and therefore stood in the attitude of rivals. To such a degree were the minds of the former influenced by these feelings, that they were led to pass a resolution calculated to act prejudicial, rather than favorable to the prosperity of their institution. This resolution rendered all physicians or surgeons holding place in the Pennsylvania Hospital, ineligible to an election in the Alms House. In 1813 this measure was re-affirmed, but from being associated with certain other matters,

drew out an opposition, the influence of which became sufficiently potential to secure its repeal. In 1814, Doctor Dorsey again became a member of the medical board, and it was to his personal influence, the meritorious poor, recovering from disease, were indebted for the house carriage purchased by the managers, to afford to convalescents the benefit of exercise and fresh air.

In 1815, in consequence of the managers assuming to regulate the term of service of the medical board, in a manner not agreeable to its members, Doctor Chapman resigned, and was succeeded on the 8th of May, by Doctor Joseph Klapp. The obstetrical department having been placed exclusively under the control of Doctor James, its duties necessarily absorbed more time, than was compatible with the proper discharge of other engagements, and at his request, on the 2nd of Nov., 1818, Doctor John Moore was elected Associate Obstetrician to the house.

In 1818, Doctor Dorsey, after a few days illness, terminated his mortal career in the 35th year of his age. By the death of Dorsey, the profession lost one of its noblest ornaments; the institution, a man who reflected honor on its hospital; and the poor a compassionate and devoted friend. The place thus made vacant by the hand of death, was filled on the 20th of November, by Doctor Joseph Hartshorne, then among the leading practitioners in Philadelphia. Two sons of Doctor Hartshorne, enjoying deservedly high reputations as men of culture and position, perpetuate the eminence of their paternal ancestor in our midst to-day. Doctor Hartshorne's connexion with the house, continued until February 28th, 1820, when an extensive and laborious practice compelled him to withdraw. On the same day in which his resignation was accepted, Doctor John Rhea Barton was elected, one of the most accomplished and ingenious surgeons of this city, although not now, it is to be regretted, engaged in the active duties of his profession.

It was during this year, Doctor William Swaim, the manufacturer of a panacea which had acquired considerable public notoriety, was allowed the privilege of administering his patent medicine to several patients suffering from certain specific ulcers, and with a degree of success which I believe secured unfortunately the endorsement of names, high in the ranks of the profession. The large fortune amassed by the patentee of this medicine, may be said in a great measure to have resulted from the circumstances attending this experiment.

In February 1821 Doctor Moore resigned, and Doctor Henry Neill was elected, first as Assistant Obstetrician to Doctor James, and

afterwards, in March, to equal rank with his colleague. Very shortly after, Doctor James, whose service to this charity extended over twenty-five years, declined longer to discharge the duties of obstetrician, and on the 5th of March 1821, Nathan Shoemaker assumed the labors of this department. This year the addition of two surgeons and two physicians to the medical board was sanctioned by the managers, which in connexion with the resignations of Doctors Parrish and Rush, the same year, left four places to be supplied, and to which Doctors William Gibson, George McClellan, Samuel Colhoun, and Wm. P. C. Barton were chosen—all men holding high rank among the magnates of American Surgery and Medicine.

During 1822 the leaven of discord again commenced working among the members of the medical corps, and finally attained such proportions as to demand the interference of the managers, who passed a resolution to dispense with the services of the board. This occurred on the 12th of August, and on the 26th they proceeded to select a new body, which consisted of Doctors Samuel Jackson, Joseph Klapp, John K. Mitchell, and Richard Harlan, to serve as physicians. Doctors John Rhea Barton, William Gibson, William E. Horner, and J. V. O. Laurence, as Surgeons, and Doctors Henry Neill, and Nathan Shoemaker, obstetricians. Doctor Klapp only retained his connexion with the house, until September, when he was succeeded by Doctor Nathaniel Chapman. Doctor Laurence, who was one of the most indefatigable workers, especially in morbid Anatomy, was attacked with the prevailing fever of 1822, notwithstanding which he very imprudently continued to discharge his professional labors, until, after an operation at the institution, he found himself utterly exhausted, was taken home in the carriage of a friend, and a few days after expired. After the death of Laurence, Doctor Harlan was transferred to the Surgical staff, and Doctor Hugh L. Hodge elected to the vacancy thus created in the medical department. In 1827 Doctor Shoemaker declined longer acting as obstetrician, and on the 3d of September was succeeded by Doctor Lukens. This year indeed was rather remarkable for changes in the medical organization. Doctors Mitchell and Lukens resigned, and were replaced by Doctor Samuel George Morton, the distinguished naturalist, and Doctor Ellis. The latter gentleman maintained his connexion with the Alms House until 1831, when he was removed by death, and on the 2nd. of May of the same year Doctor —— Beattie, was selected to fill the vacancy.

In March 1828, an act had passed the Legislature of Pennsylvania, providing for the erection of a new Alms House, and the sale of the old one. It further provided for the construction of a hospital, not to be erected beyond Schuylkill Eighth, now called 15th street. The Medical Board pressed the building of this hospital strongly on the Managers, believing its removal to the west side of the Schuylkill would destroy its value as a Clinical School. Their efforts, however, proved unavailing, as the enterprise was calculated to involve a very large outlay of money.

On the 30th of April, 1832, Doctor Chapman gave up his position, and was succeeded by Doctor Jacob Randolph. Up to this period Doctor Horner had been serving as physician, but when Doctor Randolph became a member of the board, they, by mutual agreement exchanged situations, Surgery being more in harmony with the tastes of the former. Almost three years elapsed before another change is recorded ; or until March 16th 1835, when Doctor Neill resigned, and Doctor Casper Wister Pennock, was elected, Doctor Pennock was a highly accomplished physician, and this hospital furnished to him a field for those observations on the heart, which were afterwards presented in a volume to the medical world. An earnest and untiring worker, he was soon laid aside from the activities of a profession which he dearly loved, and although still living, is the victim of a hopeless paralysis.

On the 13th of October 1835, Dr. William H. Gerhard was elected one of the physicians. The Doctor had enjoyed as a resident pupil the practice of the house for four years, namely in 1828-'29, '30 and '31. It was while acting in this capacity in 1829, he performed those experiments on the Endermic application of medicines, which were made the subject of a thesis, and which have been translated into almost every language. It was here where he commenced the cultivation of physical exploration as a means of diagnosis, and which entitles him to be regarded as the father of auscultation and percussion in America. It was here in 1836 where he made those careful investigations in the study of intestinal lesions, which clearly established the distinction between typhus and typhoid fever.* And it was here where by changing the stereotyped method of treating cases of mania-potu, he was instrumental in diminishing the mortality of such, fifty per cent.

* These papers may be found in the "American Medical Journal of Medical Sciences" for the year 1837.

This year Mr. Isaac Collins, a member of the board of Guardians, offered a resolution to alter the medical organization, by establishing a Chief Resident Physician, to reside permanently in the house. Although it was subsequently reported on as inexpedient, yet it may be regarded as the germ of a subject, which has at different times produced no small amount of agitation. On the 7th of October, 1835, both Doctors Hodge and Morton resigned. These vacancies were supplied by the election of Doctor Joseph Pancoast, the present eminent Professor of Anatomy in Jefferson Medical College, and Doctor William Ashmead.

On the 28th of December of this year, Doctors Gerrhard and Pennock, suggested to the Guardians the propriety of designating the hospital department by some specific name, as that of Alms House could not technically be regarded in the sense of a hospital. When the subject came up regularly before the Board, it was moved by a member—Mr. Hansel, that it should be styled the *Philadelphia Hospital*. This received the sanction of a majority vote, and has been known under that name ever since. In the month of February 1837, Doctor Pancoast was transferred at his request to the surgical staff, a vacancy having taken place by the withdrawal of Doctor Randolph. To supply Doctor Pancoast's vacancy in the Medical department, Doctor N. Stueardson, became a member of the board. In 1837 Doctor Beattie, one of the obstetricians, resigned, and Doctor William Brinckle became a member of the board. Dr. Stueardson's connexion with the House did not extend much over one year, or until May 1838, at which time Doctor Robley Dunglison, the present distinguished professor of physiology in the Jefferson Medical College, was elected. The year just passed, was remarkable for one of those visitations of folly and ignorance, which seem periodically to sweep over the country; providentially I believe, designed to distinguish the wise from the fools. In the instance referred to, it was Animal Magnetism;—and of course if a patent medicine was to be tested, or any charlatan manoeuvre to be practiced, the Philadelphia Hospital was the field in which trial was to be made, like a barber's head, everlastingly pulled for stray hairs to determine the cutting qualities of his instrument. The resident pupils, among others, assiduously laboured in the manipulation of patients, to determine its value, until the Guardians, for fear the remedy should prove too powerful for the constitutions of the poor, passed a resolution on the 20th of June 1837, disallowing all further operations.

In December 1838, two vacancies were made in the board, by the withdrawal of Doctors Ashmead and Harlan, to which Dr. Charles Bell Gibson, now professor of Surgery in a Virginia Medical College, and Edward Peace, late Surgeon to the Pennsylvania Hospital, were elected. The next change was the resignation of Doctor Brinkle, in May 1839, and the appointment of Doctor Robert M. Huston to supply his place. Doctor Gibson declining to serve longer than the fall of 1840, Doctor James M'Clintock, became one of the obstetricians of the house. In 1841 Doctor Peace's connexion with the medical board terminated, and on the 3d of May, of the same year, Doctor Ashmead again become connected with the hospital. In the following August Doctor M'Clintock removed from Philadelphia, and Doctor William H. Gillingham became one of the obstetricians to the institution.

In April 1843, Doctor Meredith Clymer was elected one of the officers of the house, and was, I believe, the last member of the old board of visiting physicians.

The 30th of June 1845 is somewhat memorable in consequence of the culmination of a trouble which had been developing for some time. The resident physicians were boarded at the table of the Steward, where, as I understand, in consequence of the want of due formality, and decorum in the destruction of an unfortunate cockroach, which had rashly taken a near cut across the table, instead of going round, these gentlemen became indignant, and demanded of the managers to be transferred to the table of the matron. Their refusal to comply with this request determined a unanimous resignation, leaving the hospital unprovided with any medical assistance. The evening of that day Doctors Horner and Clymer attended, and prescribed for the sick. Here was a "*cassus belli*," and the managers promptly passed a resolution of dismissal. With the hope of adjusting these differences, and bringing about a partial reconciliation, a joint meeting was called for July 2nd, at which Doctors Jackson, Horner, Clymer, Gillingham, and Pancoast attended, representing as a committee the medical board. Dr. Jackson who seems to have been the advocate in the case, spoke in behalf of the committee, urging on the managers to allow the residents to remain, at least until their places could be properly supplied, and declining to pass any censure, or interfere in any way in a matter of personal conflict between the residents and guardians, as foreign altogether to their legitimate jurisdiction. The guardians, however, were inexorable, and refused to recede from their vote of dismissal, thus forever

closing the door of compromise. The seceders after retiring, availed themselves of the columns of the Ledger newspaper, in which there appeared a card, betraying, to say the least of it, a good deal of youthful indiscretion. On the same day of this meeting, Mr. Flanagan, offered the following resolution, "Resolved, That the Hospital Committee be requested to inquire into the expediency of re-organizing the Medical department of the house, and report to this board." On the 21st of July, that report was made; which, after going over the ground of trouble, recommended the abolishment of the medical board, and the substitution of a Chief Resident and Assistant Resident Physician, and two Consulting Physicians and Surgeons. On the 15th of September, the report was taken up and passed, modified as follows:—"After the 1st of October 1845, there shall be One Chief Resident Physician, with a salary of \$1800 per annum; one consulting Surgeon, one consulting Physician and one consulting Accoucher, each at a salary of one hundred dollars a year. What great results proceed from small and unlikely causes. Who ever would have thought the official existence of a medical board, composed of the ablest men, in their various departments, on the continent, was suspended on the life of a contemptible cockroach. In this manner the doors of the Philadelphia Hospital, as a school of instruction, were sealed for nine years.

THE ADMINISTRATION UNDER A CHIEF RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICER.

On the 6th of October 1845, the election took place under the new organization, by which Doctor H. S. Patterson was chosen Physician-in-Chief; William Byrd Page, Consulting Surgeon; Meredith Glymer, Consulting Physician, and N. D. Benedict, Consulting Accoucher. Three months had not elapsed before the board complained of the interests of the Hospital being neglected. Doctor Patterson at that time held a professorship in the Pennsylvania Medical College, and they deemed this incompatible with his present post. On the 9th of November he resigned. Doctor N. D. Benedict was elected his successor, and the office of consulting accoucher abolished. In January 1848, the annual salary of one hundred dollars which had been appropriated to each of the consulting officers, was changed, directing five dollars to be paid for each consultation, and such visits to be ordered only in cases of absolute necessity. In February 1850, Doctor Benedict resigned, after which, on the 18th of this month, Doctor —— Haines become Chief Resi-

dent, which position he continued to hold until the 11th of February, 1853, when exchanging his profession for another, and more lucrative calling, he removed from the city, leaving his place vacant, and was succeeded by Doctor J. D. Stewart. In July of 1853, an effort was made to abolish this office and return to the old system; and although it did not prove successful as regards the chief resident of the hospital, yet it did prevail, in a degree, by dispensing with the Assistant Resident of the Lunatic Asylum.

Doctor Stewart's connexion with the house was very short. His health had for some time been gradually failing, under the progress of an organic affection of the liver, and which terminated his life in April 1854. The office of chief resident was now temporarily discharged by Doctor Coleman, then an interne of the house, or until the 1st of May, at which time Doctor Archibald B. Campbell was elected.

CLINICAL INSTRUCTION.

To Doctor Thomas Bond belongs the honor of inaugurating Clinical teaching in this country, while physician to the Pennsylvania Hospital as early as 1766. But for the Philadelphia Alms House, we may claim the establishment of the first obstetrical clinic. Students of good character were allowed to attend cases of labor, and the various stages of the process were explained to them by Doctor Bond or Evans, under whose personal direction these instructions were conducted, as early as 1770, and in all probability much earlier, as may be inferred from the phraseology of the minutes touching this subject. In 1772, the managers were solicited to extend the medical conveniences of the house for the better accommodation of students, increased numbers of which began to be attracted to Philadelphia, from the growing reputation of her medical school. A part of this plan was an increase of the medical officers; and at this date, some of the first names in the profession were associated with the enterprise, such as Huhn, Rush, and Clarkson; but the records are too meagre to furnish any details of the manner in which these public instructions were conducted. It was then the most extensive hospital on the continent, containing about 350 persons, and must unquestionably have contained much disease of an interesting and instructive character. Where the governing power of an institution is constantly undergoing change, little stability or permanence may be expected in any plan or system of education. Either the hostility of some of the managers, or more probable the un-

settled state of affairs consequent on the revolutionary struggle, interrupted the medical instructions for some time before 1778, nor is there any evidence that clinical lectures were delivered in the Pennsylvania hospital for several years subsequent to 1771, where Doctor Bond was in the habit of delivering a course as a part of the instruction of the Medical College. In November 1778 the subject was revived by the students present in the city. They presented a formal application to the physicians of the Alms House for permission to witness the practice in that institution. Doctors Rogers and Leib waited on the board of managers in their behalf, and pressed the importance of such a measure with great earnestness. On the 17th of November, the subject came up formally before the board, and although there were several altogether favorable to the proposition, a majority of the votes were recorded in the negative. Immediately after, the physicians renewed their application, and solicited a personal conference with the managers. A second meeting in consequence took place, at which the advantages of hospital instruction to the profession and the community were presented with renewed cogency and sincerity. They begged a re-consideration of the subject, asking the body of managers to concede at least a probationary trial, and volunteering a personal responsibility for the good conduct of the young men in attendance. The plea was not unsuccessful; the vote was re-considered, and the house was opened by a majority of one vote, for clinical instruction. Until 1789 hospital teaching continued to be conducted under great embarrassment, partly on account of the war, and partly from the opposition of the hostile element in the board, so that while we cannot say it was formally abolished, "*de jure*," yet it was almost impracticable, "*de facto*."

On the 5th of May 1789, the physicians elected sent a communication to the board, in which they took occasion to say, "that inasmuch as they furnished their services to this institution without expense to the managers, they ought to have such facilities offered, as would make their practice useful to the public." Their meaning not being sufficiently explicit, the board asked an explanation, which they received on the 4th of July; and certainly left as little room for misunderstanding, as did the immortal document of the declaration associated with this day. On the 29th the managers framed a communication for the medical attendants, full of compliment, acknowledging their valuable services to the sick, and assuring these gentlemen they will ever endeavour to make their duties as agreeable as will be consistent with the good order of the house, and the

delicacy due to the patients under their charge. One month after, all the physicians withdrew from the institution. For six years the subject was allowed to slumber, until October 1795, when Doctor Cumming, who had been appointed one of the visiting physicians, ventured to approach this hitherto imperturbable body, with a request to be allowed the privilege of introducing his private students to the wards on the days of his official visits. The proposition was promptly rejected, on the ground of such publicity being calculated to do harm to the sick. In 1803 Doctors James and Church proposed to attend the lying-in ward, on condition they should be allowed to have one private pupil present at each case of labor. The application was granted, and much invaluable instruction was communicated in this responsible department of medicine. My father, who was a pupil of Doctor James, was among the number who enjoyed this privilege. The same year, on the 23d of March, Doctor Caldwell was allowed to introduce and instruct a select class of 20—afterwards 40 students—during his stated visits to the medical wards, on the condition of his becoming responsible for their good deportment. Students at that time were regarded with no small amount of suspicion; and even at the present, there are not wanting many persons who entertain toward them a good deal of reserve and distrust. It is a shocking thing, gentlemen, to cut up dead people; and one might suppose from the horror with which some people shun you, that students were in the habit of eating them.

In September 1817, through the efforts of Doctors James and Church, the managers conceded the privilege to deliver clinical lectures to a class of students twice a week, in the green or dead house, during the winter season. Shortly after Dr. Barton was permitted to give instructions to his class on the days of his regular attendance at the house. Every successive year now removed more and more the prejudices which had so long operated against the admission of medical students. The Managers were seized with an active desire to promote and foster a system which contributed so largely toward laying a solid foundation of medical usefulness. Hence, in 1805, the buildings for the accommodation of the sick and the poor being inadequate for their proper comfort, the administrative part of the board addressed the Legislature by petition, soliciting aid to enlarge the house. In presenting their prayer, they rest their claims on the State in the fact, that the charities of the institution had not been confined to the city and county of Philadelphia alone; one fifth of the inmates being from other parts of the commonwealth: that the

Pennsylvania Hospital, rich in estates, had repeatedly received assistance from the munificence of former Legislatures, and was at that time before the Assembly for help; and yet its doors were closed against the poor, and more than an equivalent for board and lodging exacted: that moreover the Alms House, containing over one thousand inmates, presented an extensive field for communicating medical instruction to students, attracted from all sections of the country, by the celebrity of the school. This petition anticipating extensive preparation for clinical accommodations, was regarded by the general board as an unwarrantable assumption of power on the part of the managers, and produced a very tart correspondence, which I have no doubt produced the passage of the supplement to the poor law of 1808.

Until October the 25th, 1805, no fee was demanded from those attending the instruction of the institution; but at the above date a ticket was directed to be issued, signed by the President and Secretary of the Board of Guardians, at the price of eight dollars—two purchasing a perpetual privilege. The office pupils of the Medical officers were free to attend without charge. In November, 1806, Doctor James was delivering lectures still in the green room, and there they continued to instruct, until 1811, when the Surgeons connected with the Alms House, asked for more suitable apartments, in which operations could be performed, and thus remove from the ward a source of mischief to the other sick. To correct this evil the board had the building called the dye and wash-house, carried up an additional story, fitted up as a lecture room, with two adjoining wards, capable of holding each twenty or thirty patients, and here were next delivered the Clinical lectures.

During 1813, the Managers, anxious to advance the reputation and popularity of the house, were induced to tender to any student taking their ticket, the privilege of attending a case of labor, and to give the proposal greater publicity, it was by their authority announced in the public papers. This scheme of indiscriminate admission to the ward of the lying-in department, brought out a minority protest, which was not only a sensible paper on the subject of difference, but which introduced and exposed the suicidal measures of the board on another matter closely allied with the success of the Alms House, as a medical school, by making the simple circumstance of holding an appointment in the Pennsylvania Hospital, a disqualification for a similar one in the institution over which the managers presided. They urged the wisdom of selecting the very best talent

wherever found, and especially the propriety of seeking as many from the Medical School as possible. That the force of this may be understood, it must be remembered every student was required, as a condition of graduation, to take a ticket in the Pennsylvania Hospital. If, therefore, they could identify the interests of the faculty of the University with the Alms House, it would in all probability procure such a modification of the rule, as would, at least, leave it at the pleasure of the student, whether this ticket was taken at one or the other. This protest effected a change of sentiment in the Board, securing not only a more circumspect modification of the obstetrical privilege, but a repeal of the law so far as it effected the eligibility of professional men serving in a kindred institution, and on the 6th of November 1815, produced the very result contemplated.

A more noble spirit on the part of the managers this year, also led to a pleasant interchange of civilities between these sister hospitals. The Steward was authorized to address a note to the Residents of the Pennsylvania Hospital, inviting them to an operation to be performed at the Alms House, and this privilege was afterwards made perpetual.

On the 5th of January, 1818, a conference was held between a Committee of Trustees of the University, and the Board of Guardians, with a view of establishing more extended clinical teaching in the Alms House. The number of students had been gradually increasing. In 1818 there were 53 in attendance; but the succeeding three years being remarkable for the prevalence in the house of malignant disease, had no doubt some influence in diminishing the class, for in 1819 it does not appear there were more than 43, and in 1820 but 22 in attendance. In 1822, however, the number ran up to 110. This was the year in which Dr. Barton, having been allowed to convert the area in the rear of the centre building into a botanic garden, was in the habit of taking the class among the plants to illustrate the subjects of his lectures; and the year also in which Gibson, Barton, Horner, Mitchell, Laurence, and Chapman, all accomplished gentlemen, learned and eloquent men in medicine and surgery, were wont to pour forth the treasures of their experience and observation. The subject of a botanic garden on a large and liberal scale, and to be placed under a scientific head, had been a favorite idea with members of both the medical and managers' board, but could not be successfully accomplished. After Doctor Barton left the board, the old garden passed into the hands of Doctor Samuel Jackson, by whose suggestion a green-house was constructed

for the more complete protection and preservation of the plants. Between the years 1822 and 1828 I have no data for determining the number of students attending the clinical instruction.

In 1827 it was announced in the public newspapers that cases of recent fractures would be received and treated in the institution. The suggestion came from the surgical staff, and would enable them to furnish illustrations of the management of a very important class of accidents.

During 1827, Doctor Thomas Harris asked the privilege of delivering a course of lectures on Surgery in the lecture room of the house; which was granted by the guardians. This course was didactic in its character and had no connexion with the ordinary instruction of the institution. In 1828 the number of students amounted to 75, and in 1830 rose to 185. In 1834, August 11th, Doctor Burden, then a member of the board of guardians, offered a resolution to appoint a committee to confer with the Trustees of the University and Jefferson Medical College, on subjects connected with the interests of the Alms House. The scheme which the Doctor had in contemplation, was in the first place, to make the ticket of the house essential to graduation, and in the second, the organization of a summer school of practical medicine and surgery in the institution; neither of which received the sanction of the board. The first was asking a discrimination which ought not, we conceive, ever be granted to any hospital, the second was a wise public-spirited, practical suggestion, which ought not to have been refused.

It was this year the Faculty of Jefferson Medical College, then growing into deserved importance, requested of the guardians to be placed on an equal status with the University in regard to Clinical teaching. The plan they proposed was to set apart two wards for them in the hospital—one for medical and one for surgical cases, and alternate weeks for their Clinical lectures. Those representing the interests of the University objected to such an arrangement, as calculated to mar the harmony of both of the schools and the hospital. They declare having undertaken the development of a Clinical school at a time when scarcely a ticket was sold, and at length succeeded in making it a source of revenue to the board, and a formidable rival of the Pennsylvania Hospital—the latter not selling over 30 tickets; and last, that their connexion with the Clinic, in no way prevented the students of another College enjoying equal advantages with their own.

This year (1834) was one of great prosperity to the Philadelphia

Hospital. Two hundred and twenty students were in attendance; the proceeds accruing therefrom amounting to fourteen hundred and twenty dollars. The board of managers appreciating the courtesies due to men of liberal education and position in the profession, with commendable propriety tendered gratuitous admission to all medical men attached to the army and navy. These lectures were delivered on Wednesday of every week during the winter months. In 1835, at the request of Doctors Patterson and Calhoun, the day was changed to Saturday, in accommodation to the instruction in the Jefferson College, which sent this year 79 students to the clinic.

The transportation was no inconsiderable item. Long lines of omnibuses, (for there were then no street cars,) were stationed about Ninth and Chesnut streets, on Saturday morning, in a few minutes crowds of students, full of life and excitement, were stowed away—not seated—in glorious, good-natured confusion; and at the usual salutation of the knight of the whip, “all right,” were whirled away at a spanking speed, some to the South street ferry, to be carried over in a boat, which has long been suspected as one of Charon’s—and in so far as the transportation of *spirits* was concerned, not untruly; others by the Market street bridge. Some of my most pleasant recollections of college life in 1837, are associated with these weekly trips, so admirably calculated to relieve the tedium of the town, and regale the lungs with a more invigorating air. The lecture room was situated in what is now the lunatic department, and only recently abandoned. It was the most capacious and finely arranged amphitheatre in the country, and capable of seating from seven to eight hundred persons. Until 1845, this hospital continued to be the great clinic school of the country, annually opening its exhaustless treasures of disease to crowds of educated, zealous inquirers after medical knowledge. The unfortunate events which in 1845 succeeded the death of the cockroach, terminated the instructions for several years.

CERTIFICATES AND TICKETS.

In 1817 a diploma, or certificate, was ordered to be engraven, the impressions from which were made, some on paper and some on parchment, designed for the resident pupils, and which were furnished at three and four dollars a copy. In September 1832 a new plate was produced, altogether more artistically executed, and in 1835, a small vignette view of the house was ordered to be engraven and printed on the tickets. In 1860, another lithographic engraving of a certificate was executed. The design represents a front view of the in-

stitution, and was signed by the President of the board of Guardians, the President of the Medical board, and the Secretary.

After a pause of several years, and the profession becoming more and more sensible of the great injustice and tyranny perpetrated against the reputation of a city enjoying such unexampled prosperity as a center of medical education, by excluding them from an institution supported largely from their own pockets, and possessed of the most ample resources as a clinical school, began to move in the matter. On the 1st of May 1854, the Philadelphia County Medical Society addressed a communication to the Board of Guardians, asking that its doors be opened to students of medicine. The document was forcibly written, but produced no change in the views of that body. In August of this year, Doctor John Reese, register of the Medical Faculty of Pennsylvania College, in behalf of that institution, communicated with the board on the same subject, and guaranteed if its wards were opened to public instruction, the sale of fifty tickets from that school alone. These appeals, no doubt, had some weight with the guardians, but, to Doctors Henry H. Smith, and James L. Ludlow, (and I speak from personal knowledge,) more than to all others combined, is the profession of Philadelphia, and the country at large, indebted for the re-establishment of a Clinical school, within the walls of this institution. Neither must Doctor Penrose be overlooked in this important work, as he labored indefatigably for the same end. I make no mention of my own efforts in the same direction, for while I did what I could, I was comparatively a stranger in the city, and had no influence whatever. These gentlemen visited each member of the board of guardians personally, and by an unwearied, persevering presentation of the subject in every possible shape, finally succeeded by their importunance, as the widow with the unjust judge, in revolutionizing the settled sentiment of the board, securing a favorable report from the hospital committee, and its adoption on the motion of Doctor Henley, by the general board of guardians. The rules for the government of the Clinic were reported on the 6th of September 1854, and provided for the election of two physicians, and two surgeons in addition to the chief resident officers.

THE ADMINISTRATION BY A RESIDENT-IN-CHIEF; AND A BOARD
OF LECTURERS ON CLINICAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

On the same day in which the rules were reported, (6th of September 1854,) the guardians proceeded to elect the medical officers,

when Doctors J. L. Ludlow and Robert Coleman were selected physicians, and Doctors Henry H. Smith and D. H. Agnew, surgeons. Doctor Coleman being compelled by previous arrangements to resign, Doctor Casper Morris was elected in his place, and on the 30th of the following October, the staff was increased by the appointment of Doctor R. A. F. Penrose, obstetrician to the institution. Tickets of admission were fixed at ten dollars, including transportation, two days in the week—Wednesday and Saturday—for four months. The West Chester Rail road, which passes through the grounds of this institution, was just being completed, and an arrangement was made with the superintendent, to run cars from Broad and Market streets to some point opposite the building, on the days of Clinical lectures. The second week in October 1854, an immense train left Broad street, filled to repletion with medical students, to witness the inauguration of this important event. This passenger train, I believe, was the first which passed over the long stretch of tressle work supporting the road across the meadows of this property. Its living freight was landed opposite the river point. Certainly not less than 700 persons were present in the old amphitheatre, and the first Clinic of the new era was held, after some appropriate remarks by Drs. Smith and Ludlow. On the following June of 1855, the hospital committee deemed it proper to increase the number of medical officers, and by their recommendation, two additional, were added to each staff. These were Doctors Joseph Carson, and J. B. Biddle, to the medical, Doctors John Neill, and R. P. Thomas, to the surgical, and Doctors Wilson Jewell, and Casper Morris, to the obstetrical departments, the latter gentlemen being transferred from the medical to the obstetrical at his own request.

On the 2nd of July 1855, the period for the annual election of a chief-medical officer, Doctor Robert K. Smith was selected by the guardians, and who co-operated most efficiently with the Clinical board, delivering in October an excellent introductory, and participating in the clinical instructions communicated to the class. On the 21st of July, 1856, Doctor A. B. Campbell was elected chief resident physician. A remarkable change this year came over the board of guardians in reference to the house instruction. It is altogether foreign to my purpose to enter into any analyses of the instrumentalities employed to sway the opinions of these gentlemen, although they were quite patent, I presume, to any member of the medical organization connected with the institution. It is sufficient to say, that on the motion of a member, offered on the 22nd of December

1856, Clinical instruction in the Philadelphia hospital was abolished after the termination of the lectures then in progress. The reason adduced in justification of this act, was the failure of the Clinic to meet its own expenses. The record stultified the allegation; and those who were cognizant of the facts, could not but feel indignant at so audacious a falsification of the case. There were at that very time seventy-five students in attendance, a larger number than usually attended hospitals either in this country or Europe.

On the 8th of June 1857, Doctor Campbell resigned, and was succeeded by Doctor James M'Clintock, very shortly after which event the visiting members of the medical organization all resigned, several of the residents physicians withdrew from the house, and again the institution ceased to administer to the wants of the medical class of Philadelphia.

On the 5th of July 1858, Doctor Robert K. Smith again became chief resident officer, and on the 19th of the same month, under the auspices of this new medical head, Mr. Reall, a member of the board of guardians, proposed to re-establish a board of Clinical lecturers. The subject for a time was laid over, until the 11th of October, when the students of the different Medical Colleges in the city, addressed a communication to the guardians, praying for the revival of medical instruction.

On the 22nd of November, they acceded to the request; and proceeded at once to ballot for gentlemen to discharge this duty. Doctors Joseph Carson, J. B. Biddle, J. Atkin Meigs, and Samuel Dickson were elected lecturers on Clinical Medicine; Doctors John Neill, W. S. Halsey, Richard J. Levis, and D. H. Agnew, on Clinical Surgery; and Doctors R. A. F. Penrose, and E. McClellan, on Obstetrics and diseases of Women and Children. Doctor Dickson's health not allowing him any increase in his labors, was compelled to decline serving, and in his place Doctor J. Da Costa was elected one of the Physicians; and under this organization, the hospital commenced again to discharge one of its legitimate functions to the community. On the 4th of July, 1859, the old board of guardians was abolished, which for many years had been selected by a popular vote, and a new one consisting of twelve members appointed by the Courts and Councils, came into power. This organization, consisting of the most respectable and intelligent gentlemen in our community, men of enlarged liberal views, conjoined with superior practical ability, after a careful survey of the field, entered on the work of reform. Among the subjects which earliest occupied their

attention, was the medical department of this institution. The result of these investigations was a return to the old system, dispensing with the office of chief resident, and placing the hospital department under the charge of a medical board, consisting of twelve members, to act as physicians, surgeons, and obstetricians, and who were to visit the institution four times a week. The election for these officers took place on the 8th of August, 1859, at which Doctors James L. Ludlow, William F. Mayburry, Charles P. Futt, and Robert Lucket, were selected to constitute a medical staff; Doctors S. W. Gross, Richard J. Levis, Robert Kenderdine, and D. H. Agnew, a Surgical staff; and Doctors R. A. F. Penrose, John Wiltbank, William D. Stroud, and Lewis Harlow, an obstetrical staff. It was in August, of this year the professors of the Homœopathic College, proposed, in a communication addressed to the guardians, to take the entire charge of the medical department, and furnish *all the medicines* for the sick, without any charge whatever. On the 27th December, 1859, the medical board underwent some changes, in consequence of questions connected with the political state of the country, and which have since inaugurated a revolution of unparalleled magnitude, the issue of which on the destinies of race, nation, and the world, no human mind can foresee. Doctor Lucket, espousing the Southern view of the question, induced a large number of medical students, to abandon the Medical Colleges of Philadelphia, and enter the institutions of their own States. The Doctor becoming the medical Moses of this exodus, left his place in the board, to which Doctor J. Da Costa was elected in December 1859. In the month of December 1859, Doctor Wiltbank resigned, and to supply the vacancy, Doctor George Zeigler was elected. Again, in May 7th, 1861, Doctor Mayburry was compelled, by the extent of his professional duties, to withdraw from the board, and to which place Doctor O. A. Judson was elected.

Since the new organization of the board of Guardians, by which in a great measure this house has been rescued from the vortex of politics, its medical prosperity and popularity have been steadily increasing, until it may now be pronounced the great Clinical school of this country. The change was not accomplished without a struggle. There is a class of persons who can only subsist in the seething cauldron of political agitation, and who cling to official place like barnacles to a ship's bottom. Of such, there were some who lost no opportunity to prefer charges of mismanagement in order to shake the confidence of the public in the administration of the present

organization. On the 25th of June, 1860, it was stated in Common Council that a great increase had taken place in the mortality of the institution since the change in the medical system, and a committee was appointed to investigate the facts of the case.* In the report of these gentlemen, it will be seen that instead of the mortality being increased, it had been greatly diminished. They took the last year of the old board of guardians which expired on July the 1st, 1859, and contrasted it with the first year of the present board, which terminated on July the 1st, 1860. By examination, it appeared the year ending July, 1859, the average population of the house was 2513, and the deaths for the same period were 657, or 26.15 per cent. of the average population. For the year ending July 1st, 1860, the average population was 2520, and the deaths for the same time were 589 or 23.30 per cent. of the average population. This showed a decrease of 68 in the number of deaths, or 11 per cent. on the mortality of the previous year. In the Insane Department for the same years—that is 1859, with an average population of 400, there were 96 deaths or 24 per cent. on the above average. In 1860 the average population was 425, and 72 deaths—or not quite 17 per cent. of the average population, a decrease of 38 per cent. on the mortality of the previous year. They go on further to state, that it must be remembered only a part of the population of the Alms House is under medical treatment, and that the proper basis to determine the per-centage of mortality among the inmates, should be taken from the Hospital. For this purpose, the Committee took the last published report of the late Chief Resident of the former board, for 1858. Its author declares, during that period the institution shows a smaller mortality than had been known for many years. By that report, in the various wards of the Hospital, Children's Asylum and Nursery, there were treated 5335 cases of disease, of which number 549 died, or 10.29 per-cent. The books of the present board showed 6176 cases treated, and 478 deaths, or 7.74 per cent, exhibiting a decrease of 25 per cent. on the mortality of the former year. This, then, was a vindication of the wisdom of the guardians, in establishing the present medical organization, and rested on a mathematical demonstration which even its enemies dare not gainsay. On the 10th of September 1860, the medical board addressed the guardians on the propriety of throwing open the wards of this hospital for free clinical instruction. This propo-

* Journal of Common Council, from May to November, 1866. Page 121.

sition was considered from a liberal and intelligent stand point, in its broader and more general bearings, and, on the 24th September, 1860, received their cordial sanction; and to this time, and it is to be hoped, through all time to come, its doors may never be closed against, or a fee craved from, those who enter its halls in search of that knowledge which can alone render them qualified to discharge the functions of a divine art.

In the month of April 1861, the guardians furnished another proof of the confidence which they reposed in the medical board, by authorizing the construction of the present lecture room, which for elegance and convenience has no superior; and which was formally inaugurated on the 16th of October 1861, in an able address from Dr. James L. Ludlow, on the subject of the Rise and Progress of Clinical Instruction.

MUSEUM.

On the 25th of November, 1814, the first effort was made to establish a Hospital Museum. The Board required every resident pupil to leave in the house a preparation made by himself. That the rule was enforced for a time there can be no doubt, for on the 26th of February, 1822, I find the acknowledgment of the following anatomical preparations:—A Corroded Kidney, by J. T. Sharpless; A Side View of the Head, with the Vessels Injected, by J. M. Fox; A Specimen showing the Anatomy of Scrotal Hernia, by Edward L. Dubarry, and a Fœtal preparation, showing the vessels peculiar to the circulation. Where are these now? The 23d of November 1840, Doctor Burden, one of the guardians, presented a resolution to fit up a room in the centre building of the hospital for a museum, which was to be placed under the charge of the apothecary, to whom all the morbid specimens were to be given for preservation. The first museum contemplated, was evidently to be only a depository for normal anatomical specimens: this last may be considered as the inception of a pathological cabinet. There were three things which, of course, rendered it impracticable. First, the curator was to be the apothecary, who, of course, knew nothing of pathology; second, there were no provisions made for dissecting the specimens; and last, at this very period, the subject of post mortems was embarrassed by more formalism than would be necessary to ratify and induct an Archbishop into his holy calling.

On the 10th of September 1860, the present board of guardians, acting on the recommendation of the medical board, authorized the

founding of a pathological museum, to which the writer was assigned as Curator. For the perpetuation of this important undertaking, an annual appropriation of two hundred dollars is made, and which, if judiciously expended, will serve to preserve a large amount of pathological material. The work has begun. Already a considerable collection has been placed on the shelves of this museum; some of them quite *unique* of their kind, and all most valuable illustrations of morbid structure. Although much of this work has been done at considerable personal inconvenience, yet I assure you it is with no ordinary feelings of pride and pleasure, that I regard the association of my name with an enterprise, which if prosecuted with ordinary industry and intelligence, will in a few years secure to the Philadelphia Hospital the most valuable collection of morbid anatomy to be found anywhere in this country.

LIBRARY.

Among the wants specified by the board in 1805, when they went before the Legislature for aid, was a room to be appropriated for a library. About the beginning of the year 1808, this work commenced, and on the 9th of May, one hundred and fifty dollars were appropriated by the managers for the purchase of books, to be selected by the physicians of the institution. Rules were reported shortly after for its management, and the senior resident student appointed librarian, at which time the books were labelled and numbered. In 1810 another appropriation of one hundred and fifty dollars was made for the same purpose. On the 28th of December 1812, a committee was appointed to draft rules for the management of the library, and at this date there was an unexpended balance to its credit of four hundred dollars, which was money received from the house pupils. In 1813 a rule was passed conferring a life privilege to the use of the library, for the sum of thirty dollars. This year three hundred dollars was expended in books, duplicates of all elementary works being ordered. In 1815 free access was allowed to physicians and students who should attend the practice of the house for two years, and also to private pupils of the medical officers of the institution. In 1816, the apothecary was appointed librarian, and the library catalogued. On the 18th of August 1818, by a report of Doctor M'Clellan, the library contained 1022 volumes, and 597 different works. On the 8th of November 1824, the managers passed a resolution making an annual appropriation of two hundred dollars for the benefit of the library. In 1827, Doctor Horner presented the institution with one hundred and

twenty theses from Edenburg. In 1831 it was again catalogued by Doctor Rivanus, one of the resident physicians, and contained some very valuable works. In November 1836, Doctor Charles Pickering applied to the board for certain works in their possession, for the use of the United States Exploring Expedition, and which were not attainable in this country; offering a large advance on the importation price as an inducement to sell. The matter was referred to the medical board and refused. Accessions were made from time to time, by appropriations made out of the proceeds resulting from the sale of clinical tickets, until it numbered over 3000 volumes; the finest collection of ancient medicine and surgery, probably any where to be found. For the last fourteen years very little attention has been bestowed on this important appendage to a great hospital. On the contrary, it has been plundered by the vandalism to which it has been exposed, of much valuable matter. At present, however, it has been placed under the care of Doctor Tutt, and having been removed from the lunatic department, is being re-arranged in a very excellent room appropriated to its use, in the north end of the hospital building. An appropriation is now annually made by the present board of guardians for its improvement and preservation, and we may hope to see it again growing in value every year.

INSANE DEPARTMENT.

The Alms House buildings, as first constructed, were not adapted to the reception of insane patients, especially if laboring under a violent type of mental disease. The managers, therefore, were in the habit of placing such cases in the Pennsylvania hospital, whose arrangements were much safer and better for the control, of lunatics. The expense of supporting them in this institution was an item of much complaint on the part of the managers of the Alms House, and on July the 4th, 1803, the physicians had a meeting on this subject. They recommended, in order to accommodate the insane poor, to convert as much of the new range of buildings (at 11th and Spruce streets) as could be spared, into cells for their accommodation. The board not thinking this locality altogether safe, fitted up the cellar under the west wing of the house, then occupied as a dining-room. This improvement was completed in December 1803, and thither to this subterranean prison, were ten persons removed from the Pennsylvania hospital—the number of the violent class then under the care of the managers. The names of these first ten occupants were John Savage, Robert Crawford, George W. Odenheimer, John

McClean, Stephen West, Mary McFall, Catharine Erringer, Christianna Griskey, Sarah Tomb, and Abbe Conly.

The portion thus set apart in a few years became insufficient, some of the cells containing two maniacs. The medical officers again pressed the necessity of additional buildings, as a measure enforced by every consideration of humanity. These underground cells were damp, chilly caverns, with insufficient light, and imperfect ventilation: they were close to the sick and surgical wards, and the noise of these creatures, bereft of reason, howling like caged beasts, exerted not only an unpleasant influence on the sick, but even shocked the public ear. In 1833 the insane were removed, in common with the other poor, to the present building, a part of which had been constructed for this unfortunate class; that is furnished with those mechanical contrivances which were deemed essential to their treatment. Among the results of scientific medicine, there are none, gentlemen, which have been fraught with so much of blessing, as those which have crowned the rational study of mental disease. The damp and gloomy cells of the old Alms House on Spruce street, and the walls and subterranean vaults of the present, furnished familiar demonstrations of the frightful armamentarium at their command, not indeed for restoring reason, but to scare her forever from her seat in the soul. You have but to cross the area of this enclosed square, to see still the iron hooks in the floor where they were tied down hands and feet, the rings in an outer wall to which they were chained like wild animals, when led from their gloomy abode to enjoy for a little the pure air and sunlight of heaven. There, too, may be still seen the traces of blood, and the marks of the teeth, as they have in their agony, vainly endeavored to gnaw through the doors which restrained their liberty, and, not the least horrible of these inquisitorial mechanism, there still stands the Composing chair in which the doomed lunatic was secured, his head supporting a capacious box filled with ice, which melting, poured its chilling streams adown his person for hours together. In 1835 the hospital committee authorized the purchase of books, prints, and musical instruments for the use of the lunatic department, and more than usual interest for a time was manifested in improving their condition. In the beginning of 1845 a ball was given for their amusement, and with such satisfactory results that Doctor Dunglison in the following April asked its repetition.

On the 17th of September 1849, Doctor Henley was appointed assistant physician to this department and to the small-pox hospital,

at a salary of \$500. In this position he continued until February 1852, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Doctor ——— Benton. Shortly after, however, Doctor Benton was superseded by the re-appointment of Doctor Henley to his old post, with a salary increased to seven hundred dollars. This office was abolished, I think in 1854, and from that time forward the Asylum, until a recent period, was lapsing rapidly into disorder and decay. Among the noblest acts of the present board of guardians, was the reorganization of this department. None but those who were conversant with the house, can form any conception of its utter inefficiency to fulfill the purposes contemplated by such an institution. It was visited for the most part by *sight-seers*, attracted by the same motives as one who visits an exhibition of animals. The hallucinations and eccentricities of these poor God-smitten creatures were the subject of thoughtless sport, and became strengthened and confirmed, by being maintained in a state of constant activity. It was a burning shame on the good name of this christian community; that such a cage of idleness, uncleanness, and disorder, should have been tolerated for a moment in their midst. On the 24th of September 1859, the insane were separated from the hospital department, and placed under the charge of a chief medical officer, Doctor S. W. Butler, at a salary of one thousand dollars per annum. Since this event, a new state of things has been introduced. An air of order, comfort, and cheerfulness is noticeable on every side; industry has taken the place of idleness; and there may be seen numbers of the inmates busily engaged, some cultivating with judgment and evident gratification, a garden of vegetables; some in sewing and making up garments of various kinds; some working at shoes, and some enlivening the ear with the delightful sounds of music, executed with no ordinary degree of taste and skill. By the last year's report it will be seen that nearly all the vegetables used by the house have been cultivated by the insane, amounting in money value to \$958 63. They will soon, it is further stated, make all the clothing and shoes consumed by the department. Another ameliorating and salutary feature is the revival by Doctor Butler of the musical entertainments when the inmates, at the sound of the violin and piano, select their partners, and with all the decorum and conventional proprieties of rational society, thread the giddy mazes of the dance, exhibiting the most striking expressions of mirth and enjoyment. Such a regimen is well calculated to introduce new trains of thought, which serve either to substitute those which constitute the phenomena of

their insanity, or enable the individuals to correct, by a legitimate induction, the delusions under which they may labor.

I am indebted to Doctor Butler for tables which furnish the following results. From 1834 to 1861 (inclusive) there have been received into the men's department, 3858 insane persons, whose social state was as follows: 1803 single, 1054 married, 332 widowed, and 669 unknown. Of the habits of the number, the following may be stated: 449 were temperate, 371 moderate, 528 intemperate, leaving 2510 unknown. In the women's department, from 1835 to 1861 (inclusive) there have been received 3473—the social state and habits of which, however, are not compiled later than 1845, and which are as follows: 329 single, 299 married, and 222 unknown; 214 temperate, 14 moderate, 67 intemperate, and 635 unknown, in a total of 928.

APOTHECARIES AND HOUSE PUPILS.

Until June the 6th, 1788, there is no evidence that the medicines requisite for the sick were prepared in the house, or that persons instructed in medicine resided in the institution. The apothecary shop was established at the date just stated, and John Trust, being recommended by the physicians, was appointed to that office. The duties were both pharmaceutical and medical, and this officer was required to be either a graduate or an advanced student. Under the first he was to prepare and dispense the prescriptions of the attending physicians; and under the second, he was to attend to the ward dressings, keep a record of the name, date of admission, sex, age, disease, event of each inmate, and preserve an account of the number of women delivered in the obstetrical ward. The remuneration was board, washing and lodging. In 1789 an additional one was deemed necessary, and we find the name of John Davidson mentioned as apothecary and house pupil. In 1802 the number was increased to three; and the system of juniors and seniors first introduced.

The eldest was styled the senior student, the next the junior student, and the third called the apothecary to the infirmary. The senior was to attend the sick, keep a history of all cases which the medical attendant might direct, with a register of the name, date of admission, age, sex, disease and event. The junior was to dress, cup, bleed in the surgical wards, visit the working wards daily, and if any were sick, report the same to the senior, and keep in order the surgical instruments and apparatus belonging to the house. The

apothecary, besides preparing the prescriptions, was required to cup and bleed in the medical ward. Each of these house pupils was to pay eighty dollars, and serve, the senior two and a half, and the others, three and a half years.

In 1811 the number of house pupils or apprentices, as they were occasionally termed, was increased to four during the winter, and three the summer season, each to pay one hundred dollars into the treasury, for the benefit of the house. In 1813, the number was fixed at four for the entire year; two seniors and two juniors. All candidates, to be eligible for an election, must have been under the instruction of some practitioner for two years, attended one course of medical lectures, pay before entering on service one hundred dollars into the hands of the Treasurer, and give bonded security for the faithful performance of his duties. The seniors rotated monthly in the different departments of the hospital, the juniors every two months. The obstetrical cases were attended alternately by both juniors and seniors. The juniors prepared all prescriptions, kept a careful record of the same, and were present with the seniors during their stated rounds with the sick. In 1816 the house pupils' fee was increased to one hundred and fifty dollars, and the term of service reduced to six and twelve months. This year, at the suggestion of the visiting physicians, the managers, believing there were ample duties to employ one person constantly in the apothecary shop, disconnected the office of apothecary to the infirmary from that of house pupil, and established it as a distinct position, with a salary of three hundred dollars a year. After a single year's trial the office was abolished, but so injudiciously, that on the 2nd of February 1818, they were compelled to re-establish it again. Gerard S. Marks was appointed to this office, which situation he continued to occupy until his death in 1832. He was succeeded by his son, Samuel P. Marks, and next by James N. Marks, first as assistant, and afterwards as principal, which position he continued to fill with unexampled ability until March the 8th, 1852—seventeen years. Mr. James N. Marks was for many years a member of the board of guardians, a man of practical ability, and whose record, I have no doubt, stands unimpeached. After the resignation of Mr. Marks, the board elected Mr. ——— Huffnell apothecary, in which capacity he continued to act until 1856, when Mr. ——— Bender, who had been acting as assistant, became now the principal. In 1817 the population of the hospital had so increased that it was found necessary to provide a larger number of resident pupils, and to meet

the wants thus arising, eight were elected, to serve for six and twelve months. In 1820 the title by which these gentlemen were called was changed from house pupil, to that of house surgeons, and house physicians. The following year, 1821, the resident fee was increased to two hundred dollars. In November 1822, the managers believing fewer residents could meet all the demands of the institution, reduced the number to six, and the next year, 1823, in consequence of a civil strife between some of the managers and the house physicians, the medical board advised a change in the mode of attending the sick, by dispensing altogether with resident under-graduates, and electing two graduates in medicine, of known ability, and who were to receive, instead of a salary, an *honorarium*, in the form of a piece of plate, with a proper inscription, and not to exceed one hundred dollars in value. The plan proposed was adopted, without the contemplated plate, but could not have met the expectations of the board, as the resolution was rescinded the same year, and resort had to the old plan. On the 8th of November 1824, the Medical board recommended the examination of all candidates for the medical service of the hospital, that they might be able to secure the best qualified talent, and which received the sanction of the managers. Another suggestion of the medical board, which was endorsed by the same gentlemen, was the election of two additional pupils, to be called *Recorders*, whose duty was to keep an accurate history of all cases of disease in the institution, a work which, had it been carried out in good faith to this day, would have constituted a treasure of medical knowledge unequalled in value by any country. Nothing practical or important, however, emanated from this office. Here and there, among musty and defaced papers, I discovered a few histories, as one searching among ancient ruins meets with broken pillars, and fragments of dismembered arches. They never can be gathered together from amidst the dust of time and decay, and framed into a symmetrical piece. In 1828 the seniors, by a resolution of the Board of Guardians, were styled Resident Physicians, and the juniors, Resident Students. In 1835 the fee exacted from those elected to either position was two hundred and fifty dollars, and which seems to have so remained until September 1839, when it was reduced to fifty dollars and the price of board. From that period to the present the number of resident physicians has been eight, boarded and lodged at the expense of the institution, and required to deposit one hundred dollars as a collateral assurance for the fulfillment of their contract,

and to be returned at the expiration of their term of service, or when honorably discharged. There have been since 1788, the year in which it may be said the system of residentship was established, three hundred and fifty pupils, or physicians officiating in this capacity; and among whom will be found those of the most distinguished physicians and surgeons, dead and living, North and South, for the last quarter of a century. Here is one of those examples of moral re-action or compensation, as noticeable among the groups incident to the social state, as between the kingdoms of nature elsewhere. Poverty, misfortune, and sickness, universally regarded as evils, yet counterbalanced by yielding as fields for scientific observations, a rich harvest of solid, practical medical knowledge.

EPIDEMICS.

In an institution giving shelter to the destitute, decrepid and broken-down; the existence of epidemic and malignant disease may very naturally be anticipated; and this house has proved no exception to the rule. In the early period of its existence, very little satisfactory information can be gathered in regard to the details of its prevailing maladies. During the Spring months of 1776 the inmates suffered very severely from both small-pox and putrid sore throat. Many cases of the worst character were taken from the house, and quartered in private lodgings, with the hope of staying their fatal progress. No mention is made, either of the number of cases attacked, or the deaths, and therefore the extent of the mortality can only be approximately arrived at. The cost of burials, with a population of two hundred, and in the ordinary health of the institution, was about £18. The year under consideration—1776—the expense of burying amounted to £47, sufficient to show the mortality had been doubled.

In 1779, a form of intermittent fever prevailed during the month of April, concerning which it is said, “there were deaths daily, and much distress in the house.” For nine years following 1779, the institution appears to have enjoyed a wonderful exemption from fatal diseases, or until 1788, when a person in the month of February was admitted from Southwark, indisposed from some undeveloped affection. Shortly after, his disease proved to be small-pox, which spread with great rapidity among the inmates. This was among the most terrible scourges, as vaccination had not been discovered, and against inoculation there was a wide-spread prejudice.

In 1793 Philadelphia was visited by the yellow fever, and this institution was doomed to pass through the severest ordeal which it had ever sustained. It is quite impossible for us at this day to form any just conception of the panic which seized the public mind on the appearance of this desolating plague. There is something very extraordinary and appalling in the moral effects of those unseen agencies with which God sometimes scourges a city or nation. Men can preserve their courage and composure on the field of battle, where the mailed-clad hosts of contending armies struggle for victory amid the roar of artillery and the shouts of their captains, but let the Angel of pestilence, that walketh in darkness, or wasteth at noonday, shake from his sable wings the invisible spores of infection and death, and the merchant sinks at his desk ; or the artisan totter and fall at his bench ; or an acquaintance making a transient call on a friend, suddenly grow pale and feeble, is borne home to his bed, to struggle a little, gasp and die : I say, let men witness a few such scenes as these, and they soon betray the veriest cowardice and fear.

During the prevalence of the fever, the whole face of the city was changed. There was then no funeral trains attended with the usual pomp and pageantry of mourning ; no coffins of elaborate workmanship, to contain the mortal remains of the dead, and borne with formal steps to their last resting-place. On every hand the beholder encountered open and unattended carts, containing rude boxes, exposed to the public gaze, and hurried with all despatch to be buried out of sight—not in single graves—but numbers together in capacious pits. Men cared not to tarry on the street, but hastened on with furtive glance, as though the fell destroyer followed on their track. There were no hearty, joyous salutations. Men exchanged the common civilities of recognition as though never expecting to meet again. The ties even of kindred blood lost their wonted power ; families became a terror to one another, fleeing asunder, as one would hasten from devouring flame. The song of the drunkard had ceased ; the saloons of dissipation were closed ; the haunts of vice were unfrequented ; and even the shameless votaries of lust and lewdness, slunk into their dens of infamy. As a means of protecting the inmates, the medical attendants recommended the board to grant no admissions whatever. Still the precaution proved unavailing ; the disease broke out in the house, and large numbers were attacked. Very many were removed to the hospital on Bush Hill. There are no records or other sources of information, from which any statistical light can be drawn, either to determine the number of cases, or

the mortality. That it was great, there is little room to doubt. When the disease was at its height, most of the managers, infected with the common panic and wide-spread distress, did not venture to attend the institution. But there were the medical attendants, and the steward, who never deserted their posts, but stood by this flock of decrepid, friendless poor, with a devotion and moral heroism, which, I rejoice to say, has ever been the glory of our profession. During the prevalence of the epidemic, the demand for graves was so great, that the poor were unable to dig them with proper care. Potter's field, now the beautiful Washington Square, was the public burying-ground. The interments were so numerous and incomplete, as to call forth a remonstrance against depositing any more bodies within the inclosure. In 1801, there was a pauper, Thos. Wilkinson, in the house, who during this epidemic, assisted in placing in coffins, and burying 1500 victims of yellow fever; and in consideration of his having accomplished so unparalleled an office of danger and humanity, he was pensioned with a little extra food and clothing. Here was a man possessed of a wonderful degree of faithful fortitude. I should have given much to have known such a one; for depend upon it, had such a nature been properly understood, it could have been taken by the hand, and conducted into some nobler sphere of activity and duty, than is usually found within the walls of a public charity. On the 30th of December, the disease having disappeared, the doors of the house were again thrown open to persons entitled to its aid.

The managers, after witnessing the horrors of the late epidemic, had become exceedingly sensitive on the subject of what they considered as contagious diseases; and in 1795, when the city board sent to the institution cases of dysentery, which was then prevailing both in the wards of the hospital and throughout the town, they remonstrated strongly against their action.

In August 1798, Doctors Pleasants and Boyce communicated to the managers the unwelcome intelligence of the re-appearance of yellow fever in the city; and asking the adoption of additional precautionary measures to avoid the introduction of any affected person. The steward was accordingly directed to allow no admission without a certificate from one of the attending physicians. The subject of ventilation began at this time to receive some attention. The windows were so altered as to lower from above, and I may add here, in passing, that this subject has not yet been exhausted, even in the present palatial building. Frequent conferences took place at

this time between the managers and the board of health, and between the former and the managers of the Marine city hospital, with a view to provide accommodations, and sustenance for the poor of the city and districts, and to aid such persons as desired to move from the city limits. It was certainly a period of the most deplorable suffering among the poor. On the 10th of September 1798, they concluded to solicit a loan on subscription, to be re-imbursed out of any fund afterwards designated by the Legislature. During the month of November, between two and three hundred children utterly destitute, were sent to the managers, their parents having fallen victims to the fever. Some idea may be formed of the state of the public mind, when it is stated, that during the fever of 1793, 17,000 persons fled the city; and during that of 1798, 50,000; leaving only something over 3000 persons in Philadelphia; and that from August the 8th to October the 3d of these two visitations, 4625 individuals fell victims to the disease.* This year the whooping cough prevailed to an unparalleled degree; it visited almost every house, and in order to isolate the children, Luke Morris, one of the managers, took a house some distance from the institution.

In July 1802, great apprehension was again entertained of another visitation of the fever. The doors were closed against the admission of any paupers: no stranger was allowed to visit the house: the use of the hearse was not permitted for any burial, but such as took place from the institution: nor were the resident pupils allowed to visit any persons in the city. This interdict was maintained until the 8th of November, and whatever influence it may have exerted, certainly the house enjoyed a comparative immunity from the disease. Again, in September 1803, another alarm prevailed, in consequence of the re-appearance of fever in the city; and again were admissions refused except to the officers of the house. The board, with the consent of the Governor of the State, took the Pennsylvania Arsenal as a temporary accommodation for the poor. They afterwards procured a house on the banks of the Schuylkill at Race street, belonging to Doctor Curry, which was supplied with twenty-five bedsteads and bedding, a horse-cart, and other necessary appliances. This proved to be the last visit which the Alms house received from the yellow fever.

During the month of August 1807, an epidemic influenza broke out in the institution, attacking both inmates and officers, and pre-

* Hazzard's Register Penn. Vol. 10, p. 112.

vailed in so violent a form, and so general, as to interrupt the ordinary routine of business.

The health of the institution appears after this to have been generally good until 1811. In August of that year, a violent type of dysentery made its appearance in the wards, and proved so extensive and malignant that the board had many of the worst cases carried out of the house and quartered in a barn, which stood on a vacant piece of ground near by, called the pasture lots, and which, it appears, was followed almost immediately by salutary results.

In order to isolate the cases of small-pox which from time to time, made their appearance, a house was taken in 1815, directly opposite the institution on Spruce street, into which such patients were placed.

The Fall of 1817 was one of much sickness, distress and mortality in the Alms house. The ordinary diseases of the house all tended to assume an adynamic type, throughout the winter, and after the commencement of the new year 1818, in January, typhus fever prevailed to such a degree as to invite an inquiry into the sanitary state of the wards, from the board of health. The disease commenced about the 1st of November 1817, and as near as I can ascertain, up to January 5th, 1818—two months—there had been eighty-six cases; sixteen had died, twenty were discharged, fifty remained, and twenty-five of these were considered to be convalescing. What number of this remaining fifty died, it is impossible to learn. This statement was made by Doctor James, after which there is a record of nine cases, of which six died. By February the number and malignancy of the cases increased to such an extent, the managers requested the general board to issue no more admissions, and accordingly, on the 28th, the latter body concluded to send all cases of undeveloped disease to the quarantine house, until their character was declared; which, should it prove typhus, was then sent to the sugar-house, an old building which stood on the Alms house grounds, contiguous to the institution. It was about this time, the general board framed an address to the medical officers, asking their opinion on the contagiousness of the fever then prevailing. Their answer was like some oracular response, characterized by a degree of caution and non-committal which would have done credit to the most adroit politician of 1862; yet it might be gathered from the counsel which they gave, urging the “separation of the affected from the others”—they all believed what they did not care to express. Among their recommendations was the increase in both the quality and quantity of the diet for the poor, as calculated to enable these helpless beings to resist mor-

bid influences. The managers thought it better, however, to refuse this, and regale them by the highly nutritious and stimulating beverage of molasses, ginger and water.

In 1823 cases of small-pox becoming numerous, it was thought best to take the hospital at Bush Hill; the superintendence of which was committed to Doctor John K. Mitchell, on the 2nd of December of that year, and who continued to discharge his duties with devotion, alike creditable to the goodness of his heart, and his well-known professional ability, until February the 2nd 1824, as long as the necessity for his services existed, at which time he received the complimentary thanks of the board, and was voted a piece of plate, which his son, Doctor S. Weir Mitchell, informs me, was a pitcher bearing an appropriate inscription.

I find also, a report containing the results of this service, and from which it appears there were one hundred and fifty-eight persons received into the hospital. Of this number, one hundred and fifteen cases were unprotected, and seventy of these died: twenty-five had been vaccinated, of which all recovered: five had been inoculated, of which two died: four had suffered a previous attack of small-pox, and of these two died, and of the remaining nine nothing of their previous history was known. Eighty-four of the cases occurred in males, of which forty-seven died; seventy-four in females, of which thirty died. The greatest mortality was among the males, and curious as it may seem, the fatality among those previously inoculated, or who had had variola, was greater than among those vaccinated. On June 21st, 1824, the thanks of the guardians were tendered to Doctor John Bell, who was associated with Doctor Mitchell, for his humane and faithful attention to such as labored under this loathsome disease. Doctor Bell's name continued to be associated with the small-pox hospital until very recently, when it was closed.

In 1827, Doctor Thomas Brinkle had the care of this hospital. A report was made in September of that year, from which it would appear there were received one hundred and seventy-six patients; sixty-one of whom died, and one hundred and fifteen recovered. In eighteen of these cases the patients had passed through a previous attack, three of whom died; fifty-three cases had been previously vaccinated, and eight died; a result corroborating the report of Doctor Mitchell, and tending to establish, what I believe is at the present asserted, that vaccination is a better protective than either inoculation or variola itself. As early as 1818, the subject of erecting a building, or pest-house, as it was termed, had been agitated by

the board, and while it was the conviction of a majority of the members, that the matter of providing for contagious diseases did not legitimately belong to the guardians, yet, as a necessity, the construction of such a building was recommended. On the 5th of June 1835, a resolution to the same effect was passed, but was never carried into effect, while the Alms house stood on the east side of the Schuylkill, the old sugar-house being used for that purpose. In 1841, however, after consultation with the medical board, a site was selected on the west side of this institution, on which a building was erected and called the outer hospital, into which cases of an infectious nature were placed. This was afterwards occupied as the residence of the physician-in-chief, having been moved in its totality to its present situation on the Darby road, at the very *trifling* cost of about \$2100, and is now occupied by Doctor Butler, the physician in charge of the lunatic department. To provide for cases of small-pox, the guardians have been in the habit of using the old mansion house, between the institution, and the gate of entrance from the Darby road. The liability of the board of health to take care of cases of small-pox, has been, and I believe still continues to be a point on which a wide difference of views exist. In 1850 the solicitor of the board of guardians was requested to frame a petition to the legislature, praying that their body might be relieved of this duty; still in 1852 an act was passed giving to the board of health the right to charge three dollars a week for every case of contagious disease, for which their body provided. The hospital on Islington lane having been closed on the 1st of April 1860, strange as it may appear, in a community proverbial for its wise and liberal provisions for almost every species of physical, moral, and mental destitution and suffering; Philadelphia is to-day without a public place where either citizen or alien could command the services of physician or nurse, if overtaken by contagious disease.

In 1832 Philadelphia was visited by the cholera, which produced a degree of alarm only equalled by that of the yellow fever in 1793 and 1798. In July the medical staff advised the non-reception of cases, and an immediate provision for such as occurred within their jurisdiction outside of the house. The physicians to the out-door poor held a meeting, at which Dr. Condie presided, and recommended the establishment of temporary hospitals, to be placed under their care, and receive all such cases as were not thought proper subjects for admission to the Alms House. At that time the present house was in process of erection, the present lunatic department being

almost completed. About the 21st of July a case appeared in the infirmary of the institution, then in charge of Dr. Hodge, and it was at once resolved to remove all the healthy paupers over the river to the West building, designed then for the hospital, and these were the first occupants of the new institution. The guardians next made application to Commodore Baron for the privilege of moving others, still remaining, into the Naval Asylum, but which was declined, as the commodore did not feel himself authorized to allow its occupation by the civil authorities, other than as a hospital. A subsequent resolution empowered the President of the Board of Guardians—Mr. Lippincott—with the Mayor of the city, to arrange for the admission of a number of their cholera patients into this asylum. In the house the cases increased daily, until a general panic took place. Nurses became clamorous for an increase of wages, and it was granted. These, between terror and a want of moral sense, were seized with a kind of mad infatuation. They drank the stimulants provided for the sick, and in one ward, where the pestilence raged in its most fearful forms, and where between the dead and the dying the sight was most appalling, these Furies were seen lying drunk upon, or fighting over, the dead victims of the disease. Persons rescued from shipwreck have furnished histories of some very singular mental phenomena, the product of utter, hopeless despair, disarranging the complex machinery of the intellectual and emotional organization, so that while the great hulk, freighted with living souls, was settling down into its grave of waters, some would laugh as though in an ecstasy of joy, and others command, in vehement tones of authority, the billows to roll back, and the tempest to hush. We call all such extravagant exhibitions hysterical, but the mental and physical re-actions are none the less curious to either the metaphysician or the psychologist. In this state of disorder, application was made to Bishop Kendrick for Sisters of Charity. The request was granted, and these devoted ministers of mercy, at once entered on their mission of danger, restoring order and diffusing hope by the calm and self-composed manner with which they moved among the diseased. These sisters remained at their post until the 20th of May 1833. During the epidemic, the utmost attention was given to the study and treatment of the disease. Doctor Hodge informed me, that at the suggestion of Doctor Horner, the saline solution was thrown into the veins, in order to provide for the blood lesion which was alleged by several prominent authorities to exist, but in no case were any good results obtained. Large double tin cases were like-

wise constructed, in which the patients were placed, while external warmth was communicated by filling the interval between the case and its metallic lining with hot water. Little if any benefit was experienced from this mechanism.

In 1849 the cholera returned, and in July a meeting was called by the Mayor, to consult on the best measures for the exigency again likely to be forced on the community. This meeting took place at the office in the city, and was attended by Doctors Benedict and Page, from the institution; and Doctors Harris, Meigs, Pearce, and Dillingham, of the city. The Board of Guardians, after receiving all the light possible from an interchange of views, concluded to appoint a committee to carry out any suggestions made by the medical officers of the house. The cases increased rapidly in the institution. The wash-house, which stands in the centre of the hollow square, was occupied at first as a cholera hospital, and I remember well of passing through that building, and witnessing with sad interest, the poor victims in every stage of the disease. It was an excessively hot day, yet they were all as cold as a block of ice, and the lines of death were legibly traced on every face. Doctor Massenburgh, from Hampton, Virginia, was appointed temporary resident of the hospital at this time, a most amiable and intelligent gentleman, one of the first medical acquaintances I made after coming to the city. He was attacked with the disease while absent a few hours on a visit to the town, and died in great agony, notwithstanding the most untiring efforts were made in his behalf.

The earliest case of the disease in the house was on the 27th of June 1849. A colored man, William Jones, was brought into the black medical from the city on that day, and died before night. The second case was likewise a negro, Isaac Wood, brought from the city on the 29th, and died the same day. Between this date and the 1st of July nine other cases occurred. At this time the second story of the building, called the wash-house, was arranged for a hospital, and the patients conveyed there as soon as attacked. For several days after this, the cases were so numerous and fatal, that in the alarm and confusion no register of admissions was kept. After the 7th of July there is an account of ninety-nine males admitted, eighty-seven of whom died; and one hundred and one females, ninety of whom died. On the 13th, the medical attendants recommended the erection of two temporary hospitals outside of the walls. The workmen commenced the 16th, and by the 23d had up two board tents in the field by the gate as you enter the lane from the Darby

road. They were occupied the same day by twenty males and eight females. Of the former, seventeen died; of the latter, three died. Sixty-eight additional cases were treated in the tents, of which number thirty died. From these data, which from personal observation I believe to be far short of the truth, the total number of cases were 307, and the deaths 229.* The disease disappeared about the 20th of August, at which time these provisional hospitals were taken down. During much of this time the guardians could not raise a quorum for the transaction of business, but no record remains of any medical officer having left his post, except poor Massenbourg, the stranger, who was called, I hope, from probation to fruition.

The Sanitary Committee of the Board of Health, under the impression the virulence of the disease in the hospital was due to an improper diet, sent a communication to the Board on that subject. The statements made in their answer showed that any trifling impropriety of this nature had little to do with its prevalence. The mode of burying the dead was changed for a time. Trenches were dug so as to hold only four coffins, two abreast, and twenty-four inches apart. This space was filled in with dirt, twenty-five pounds of chloride of lime were added to each grave, and the whole covered with four feet of earth.

In 1854 a third epidemic of cholera prevailed. It commenced on the 7th of July, and attained its greatest fatality the last days of this month and the beginning of August. Straggling cases of it appeared as late as the 7th of November. During this period there were about 300 cases, most of which were treated in the small-pox hospital, near the gate, with the addition of a wooden tent. On examining the sources calculated to throw light on the result, it would appear 150 cases of the number attacked proved fatal.

During the months of January and February 1849, a very fatal epidemic of puerperal fever prevailed in the lying-in department of the house. I have not been able to ascertain the number of cases, but am told by a very reliable and intelligent nurse of the house, that almost all attacked, died. For four weeks the wards were vacated, and every means used to disinfect the place.

In 1855 the disease again appeared, and lingered in the wards for three months, carrying off almost all puerperal women attacked. Doctor Penrose, who has some valuable tables in course of preparation, informs me that there have been cases of this formidable disease in the obstetrical department every year, from 1841 to 1858,

* A careful examination made after writing the above, shows 255 deaths to have taken place.

except the years 1844 and 1845 ; and that since the change in the medical administration of the institution, he is not cognizant of a single case having occurred. This exemption he attributes to the sanitary measures advised by himself and colleagues.

The Children's Asylum has often been invaded by destructive epidemics. The first one recorded was in April 1835, the year after the children were moved to the present house. This was the *can-
crum oris*. That the mortality was large may be inferred from a single allusion, in which it is stated twenty children had died in nine days from the disease. The existence of the affection, and the fatality, was in a great measure due to the very imperfect organization of the department. Doctor Hodge, who declined this year longer to attend the asylum, addressed the managers on this subject, advising, as an act of imperative humanity, an immediate attention to the interests of this department. Among the suggestions made, were the appointment of a resident physician exclusively for the Asylum, the selection of experienced and conscientious nurses, more room and ventilation, and more hospital conveniences.

The other diseases peculiar to this period of life, which have frequently from that time to the present existed, are ophthalmia, measles, and scarlet fever.

On the 26th of November 1804, the Managers arranged for the first, a Diet Table for the use of the house. By this table, every pauper in the Medical, Surgical, and Incurable Wards, was allowed for

BREAKFAST.

One pint of Coffee or one pint of Chocolate. $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread.

DINNER.

$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Meat. 1 pint of Soup. 1 lb. of Potatoes. $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread.

SUPPER.

1 pint of Tea. $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread.

Every other pauper on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, received :

BREAKFAST.

1 pint of Coffee or 1 pint of Chocolate. $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread.

DINNER.

$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of Meat. 1 pint of Soup. 1 lb. of Potatoes.

SUPPER.

$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread. 1 pint of Tea.

Every pauper on Monday received :

BREAKFAST.

1 pint of Coffee or 1 pint of Chocolate. $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread.

DINNER.

1 lb. of Potatoes. 1 qt. of Hash. $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread.

SUPPER.

1 pint of Tea. $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread.

On Wednesday and Friday :

BREAKFAST.

1 pint of Coffee or 1 pint of Chocolate. $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread.

DINNER.

Mush at pleasure—3 gills of Molasses to 10 persons.

SUPPER.

1 pint of Tea.

 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread.

For the Lying-in Wards every day in the Week :

BREAKFAST.

 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread.

1 qt. of Coffee or Chocolate.

DINNER.

 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread. 1 lb. of Potatoes. Meat as ordered by physician.

SUPPER.

 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Bread.

1 qt. of Tea.

In this table there is a fair amount of food to each person, but very little variety. There is no subject connected with the administration of an institution of this kind which is more important than the one under consideration. It is adopted by many as a foregone principle, that the objects of public charity should be confined to the simplest, plainest, coarsest kind of fare, in quality; and in quantity as moderate as may be consistent with their needful support. (I may add here, in a parenthesis, that I do not make any charge of such views against the Board of Guardians.) Connected with this subject, I conceive there are very nice questions of moral ethics and political science involved. I presume, both as regards clothing and food, the justification is drawn from the fact that the inmates of these public charities are compelled to seek a refuge in consequence of their misfortunes being self-inflicted, the result of their own vices and evil habits, and therefore they surrender any claims to the protection of society beyond those of bare support. This is not the place to discuss a subject of such ample nature. Let me only throw out a few thoughts in passing which may aid us somewhat in its proper treatment. What is it which makes us to differ from the most degraded inmates of this house? Nothing; really nothing but the grace of God. Will any one doubt that the chief instrumentalities concerned in giving him position, reputation, moral and social standing in society, were the influential operations of parental care and tenderness, extended during those years when the human character is as plastic as the clay in the hands of the potter, and still later, where the forecast of friends had provided for personal comfort, and aided in the formation of associations, salutary and restraining. These, gentlemen, more than any natural endowments, have made you what you are. Now look at the other side of the picture. The vast proportion of the inmates of this house have never enjoyed such all-controlling agencies. Born, most of them, in humble life, with perhaps a vicious training, thrown on the world to their own resources during the most impressible period of existence, with unformed characters, called to struggle with all the temptations incident to a life of obscure toil and want, and without

the sympathy of either man or government, is it a marvel, that with such a moral organization as the race carries with it, these creatures should be driven to shipwreck by the tempests which come up from the human heart? These considerations at least commend them to our generous sympathy and charity, and to this end, God has wisely implanted in the human heart a principle to compassionate misery and misfortune in all their multiform aspects. Whenever, therefore, disease or decrepitude, either of body or mind, the result, though it may be of vicious habits, compel such to seek an asylum at the hands of their fellow-beings, whatever other claims they may have forfeited from law and society, *that to the support of life they have not*. The diet, therefore, it would seem reasonable, should be in quality, quantity, and variety, such as is capable of maintaining the best possible health, consistent with a broken-down constitution. The diet should be determined after a careful study of the constitutional characteristics of the population, prevailing diseases, and their usual complications. Looking at the subject in an economical point of view, that regimen will prove the most desirable which exerts the largest influence in keeping the inmates out of the hospital, as by the report for 1862 it will conserve the difference between seventy-two cents and two dollars.

In conclusion, gentlemen, it is difficult to over-estimate the importance of this institution, to either the profession or the community. To say nothing of the multiform types of destitution and want which it meets and relieves, look at the field which it offers to the disciple of medicine, and which no man will lightly esteem, who contemplates the prosecution of his profession with a conscience void of offence towards God and man. There, is a Hospital, in which over eight thousand cases of disease are treated annually; a Children's Asylum, offering illustrations of all the complaints incident to this period of life; and there, is an Obstetrical department, in which as many as seven cases of labor have occurred in twenty-four hours, and where in the last thirteen years, over two thousand six hundred children have been born. One year industriously spent in this institution, will yield in medical experience, the fruits of ten years gathered from an ordinary private practice. Or to place the statement in another form, a graduate of medicine, faithfully improving for a single year his opportunity for the study of disease in the wards of the Philadelphia hospital, will be better fitted to assume the responsibilities of his profession, than one who labors ten years in an ordinary city or country practice.





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